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Lleida opens sustainable theatre and congress centre La Llotja

On March 23rd 2010, La Llotja theatre and congress centre will celebrate its grand opening. La Llotja de Lleida designed by Mecanoo architecten in collaboration with labb arquitectura, is situated between the mountain with its historical cathedral Seu Vella and the Segre river. Lleida, the second city of Catalonia, selected Mecanoo architecten among seven top international architects as winner of the competition for the design of La Llotja theatre and congress centre.

Deerns worked together with Mecanoo as the consultant for installations and eco consultancy for the competition. The judges' decision was unanimous. The design was praised for its urban planning concept, clear logistics, ecological sustainability, and its imaginative power.

The building design is influenced by its Spanish surroundings with earthen stone cladding and a light bathed interior with vibrantly coloured accents representing the fruits of the region. Sustainable design principles are integrated throughout la Llotja.

The design is based on the 'shelter and shadow' concept: shelter from winter

rains and shade from the sun during the long, hot summers. The sun also plays a major role in the exceptional energy concept Deerns has designed for La Llotja. Concrete core ties are part of the climate concept, while the walls will also absorb heat. Solar energy will provide for both heating and cooling. The jewel in the crown will be an enormous planted roof garden with various functions:

A shady outdoor area for conference participants with a view over the city

Plants and their seasonal floral splendour will reduce the heat in the hot season and give the surrounding apartments an attractive view.

Solar panels will absorb heat throughout the year, and will be used for heating and cooling

La Llotja hosted the opening of the cultural season in January, before its official opening, with the performance of Verdi's "Il Trovatore" to a crowd of over 1,000 theatre aficionados. Mayor Ros, in his speech to the public, thanked architect and founder of Mecanoo Francine Houben for the "beautiful palace", while celebrated Belgian stage director, Gilles Deflo proclaimed La Llotja's acoustics to be excellent, and the theatre a pleasure to work in.

Programme: Theatre and congress centre of 37,500 m² with a theatre hall (1,000 seats), also functioning as a congress hall, 2 congress halls with 400 and 200 seats, a multifunctional space, 2 foyers, 9,500 m² of parking, lounge, terraces, a public square of 15,325 m², Mercolleida office and retail of 2,591 m², 1st prize competition

Client: Centre de Negocis i de Convencions S.A., Lleida, Spain (project); Municipality of Lleida (competition)

Competition: 2004-2005

Architect: Mecanoo architecten, Delft

Structural engineer: ABT b.v., Delft

Acoustics consultant: Peutz b.v., Zoetermeer

Electrical and mechanical engineer: Deerns Raadgevende Ingenieurs bv, Rijswijk

Costs consultant: Basalt Bouwkostenadvies b.v., Nieuwegein

Project realisation: 2005-2010

Architect :Mecanoo architecten, Delft in collaboration with Labb arquitectura S.L, Barcelona

Contractor: UTE Dragados + Obrum, Barcelona

Structural engineer: BOMA, Barcelona

Acoustics consultant: Higini Arau, Barcelona

Electrical and mechanical engineer: Einesa Ingenieria S.L., Lleida

Technical architect: J/T Ardèvol i Associats S.L, Barcelona

Costs consultant: J/T Ardèvol i Associats S.L, Barcelona

Security and fire safety consultant: Einesa Ingenieria S.L., Lleida

Project manager: Eptisa S.A. Direcció Integrada, Barcelona

Read more on some Spanish news sites

(www.conexo.net and www.revistaprotocolo.com)

5 March 2010

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